

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee -September 20, 2022**  
Office of Agriculture- Jeremy Criss

**Call the meeting to Order-**

**Approval of the July 19, 2022, AAC minutes-** *Please note the AAC did not meet in August due to the County Agricultural Fair.*

**Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)**

*The Bill 40-21 will be discussed during the October 24, 2022, Transportation and Environment Committee. The OAG remitted to the agricultural groups an amended copy of the Bill 40-21 that removes all of the sections that would be burdensome to property owners. The OAG suggests that the agricultural groups need to schedule a meeting with the County Council President Gabe Albornoz to request this Bill be delayed until next year when the new County Council begins.*

**Bill 18-22 Noise Control – Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments-** *This Bill 18-22 was introduced back in June and the Public Hearing is scheduled for September 20, 2022. Please see the attached letter from the AAC opposing this Bill 18-22.*

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220920/20220920\\_9.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220920/20220920_9.pdf)

**Office of Legislative Oversight on the Status of TDRs and BLTs -**

*The OAG staff and MNCPPC are working with the Office of Legislative Oversight to gather data and information to update the TDR and BLT programs. The OLO staff has presented draft sections of the final report and the OAG is providing comments and additional information. The OAG believes the findings from this report will show that the County Government and MNCPPC have not proposed new receiving capacity for TDRs for the past 10 + years.*

**Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonation scheduled for Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee on October 17, 2022.**

*All agricultural groups provided letters to the County Council and the MAP provided in person testimony during the public hearing. The Council Member Hans Riemer has responded to the letters from the agricultural groups stating that agricultural and farming uses will be exempt from the Bill 13-22. Hans has instructed the Council Staff to draft this exemption for agricultural and farming uses.*

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220614/20220614\\_3E.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220614/20220614_3E.pdf)

## **Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-**

*The OAG provided additional comments to MNCPPC on July 29, 2022, in response to the messages from MNCPPC dated July 15, 2022, outlining the progress and status of the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update.*

*The OAG is developing a power point presentation titled **The Rustic Roads Through the Eyes of the Farmer** that will feature pictures of Rustic Roads along with testimonials from farmers regarding their views of the Rustic Roads program and MCDOT maintenance and improvements. There are about 15 farmers that have responded so far.*

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RusticRoadsFunctionalMasterPlan1996ocr300.pdf>

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-master-plans/>

## **County/State Staff updates-**

The new OAG staff replacing Cathy Yingling will start on October 10, 2022.

The new UME staff Arnelle Ngalula Quashine for Alga Piechocinski's Faculty Tenure position started on September 12, 2022.

Rick Walter's Area Extension Director position was announced, two candidates were interviewed, and the UME announced there was a failed search for this position that will be announced again.

The Master Gardeners administrative position to replace Linda Walters was posted and the UME announced there was a failed search for this position that will be announced again.

The 4H job description for the position that was held by Santana Mays will be posted soon.

## **FY 23 Operating Budget for the OAG:**

The BDS position that Kristin Fisher once held and prior to 2010 was sent to OHR to be announced.

The MSCD Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds was sent to OHR to be announced.

**Proposal to assign an FSA Executive Director for both Prince Georges and Montgomery County-**This proposal is coming from the FSA leadership, and it would mean that Montgomery County farmers would no longer work with Missy Donnelly and that Montgomery County Farmers would continue to receive their FSA programs and services from the Derwood Office.

**Maryland Agricultural Community Discussion with US Senator Ben Cardin-September 19, 2022, at 1:30 pm** Please see the attached announcement and Request for RSVP to participate.

The Office of Agriculture is requesting suggested Federal Agricultural programs and/or policies to discuss during this meeting.

**Update on the FY22 Farm to Food Bank-F2FB Program-** Please see the attached report outlining the progress of this program for FY22 where a total of 32 farmers are participating by expanding local food production and selling the food to Manna Food Center for people in need at competitive prices.

**Full County Council work session on the Thrive 2050 Plan on Thursday September 22, 2022, at 1:30 pm.** There is a full County Council work session to discuss new chapters on the Environment, Economic Development and Racial Equity.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/resources/Thrive2050/index.html>

**Survey from the Montgomery County Office of Broadband Programs for Agricultural Reserve resident without broadband**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 7, 2022. For more information, there will be two online community meetings:

- 7pm Wednesday September 21, 2022 <https://bit.ly/MoCoComMeet1>
- 7pm Tuesday September 27, 2022 <https://bit.ly/MoCoComMeet2>

Map of occupied unserved rural Montgomery County properties – Blue have no broadband service; Yellow will be served by Verizon

Please tell us by Oct 7 if you are not in a yellow or blue area and do not have broadband service

<https://bit.ly/Ruralsurvey>

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

Poolesville Day-September 17, 2022-OAG and TEBS are promoting high speed broadband  
Maryland Agricultural Community discussion with US Senator Ben Cardin- September 19, 2022  
MSCD Cooperators Dinner-September 19, 2022  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-September 20, 2022  
MCFB Legislative Event at Calleva-September 29, 2022  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- October 7, 2022  
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-October 11, 2022  
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-October 14, 2022  
Agricultural Advisory Committee-October 18, 2022  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Dinner Banquet-November 1, 2022